

May 2015 Issue

Multi-Agency River Drill

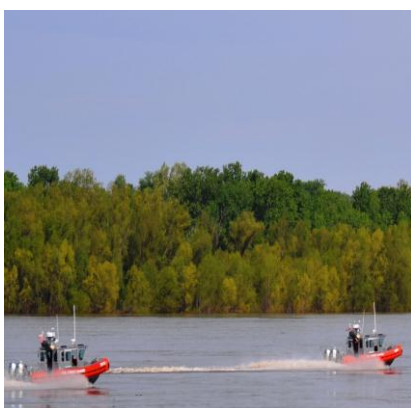


Photo Captions: **Left:** Phil Boruszewski, USCG Port Authority Specialist; Alvin Benson, Shelby County Fire Chief; Dale Lane, Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director; and John Selberg, Germantown Fire Chief, survey rescues, **Center:** USCG small response boats, **Right:** USCG delivers victims to shore, far left Danny Daniel, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency

Viking Cruises announced it will offer Mississippi River Boat cruises by 2017, with Memphis as one of its stopovers. With a capacity of 300 passengers, these cruise ships will increase river traffic for Shelby County. The safety of these passengers is a priority for emergency responders. On April 22, routine river traffic was stopped by the Coast Guard to allow for a multi-agency mass casualty boating accident drill near Mississippi River Greenbelt Park on Mud Island, downtown Memphis. The scenario described a cruise ship accident requiring swift water rescue. To ensure safety, the victims were represented in the water by 138 inflatable mannequins, plus 138 4 x 4 posts. After the accident, they were released into the water to be “rescued” and brought to shore.

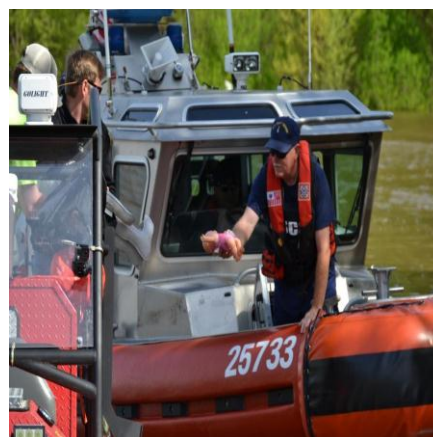


Photo Captions: **Left:** Tim Morrow and Eugene Jones install a communications antenna, **Center:** Jane Waldrop, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) Regional Director and Craig Hanrahan, Field Services Administrator, TEMA, **Right:** infant victim is handed off to rescuers



Photo Captions: Left: Center: a hydratrec on shore with rescued victims as Coast Guard representatives check off their names from a passenger list, Center: Medical Reserve volunteer victim, Trakyah Taylor, after moulage applied, Right: Coast Guard tests their communications computers, Jesse Gammel, Office of Preparedness, standing center

Hundreds of Shelby County Health Department Medical Reserve Corps volunteers were waiting on the river banks to play rescued riverboat passenger victims. After being moulaged, tagged, and triaged, they were transported by MATA bus to area hospitals. The hospitals participated in the drill by testing their surge capacity plans.

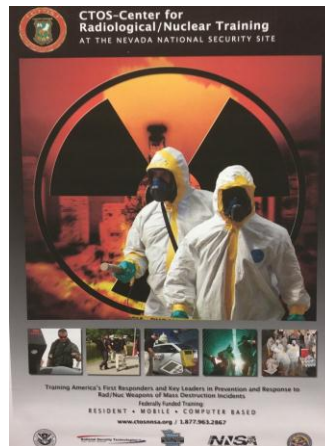
Phil Boruszewski, USCG Port Authority Specialist, said at the scene, “We started planning the drill in 2014. We are concerned about good communications and the riverboat passengers and crew....who got rescued and is accounted for and who is unaccounted for.” Two tracking systems were tested during the drill.

Over 60 emergency agencies participated in the drill including the United States Coast Guard, Shelby County Health Department Medical Reserve Corps, Shelby County Office of Preparedness, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Shelby County Regional Forensic Center, Germantown Fire Department, Memphis Fire Department, Shelby County Sheriff's Department, Memphis Office of Emergency Management, Memphis Police Department, Memphis River Boats, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Mississippi County Sheriff's Office, Economy Boat Store, Crittenden County Emergency Management Agency, Fayette County Emergency Management Agency, Arkansas Emergency Management Agency, Medic One, Braden Fire Department, Baton Rouge West Feliciana Parish, Lauderdale County Rescue Squad, West Memphis Fire Department, Urban Area Security Initiative, MATA, and the Salvation Army.



Photo Captions: Left: Memphis Police Department helicopter takes off from Greenbelt Park, Center: MATA bus takes victims to area hospitals, Right: Greenbelt Park parking lot filled with response vehicles

Gammel attends WMD Training



Jesse Gammel, Shelby County Office of Preparedness Officer, joined other emergency professionals to participate in the “Weapons of Mass Destruction - Radiological / Nuclear Responder Operations Course” at the Desoto County Emergency Operations Center in Nesbit, Mississippi on April 14, 15, and 16. The exercise-based course trains emergency personnel to respond to radiological weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents while mitigating the health risks to themselves and the public. The course taught participants the fundamentals of radiation, radiological health effects, and how terrorists use radiation as weapons. Students learned how to operate radiological instruments and dosimeters as well as survey techniques. Exercises were used to reinforce their knowledge and skills culminating with a final exercise of a WMD incident involving radioactive materials.

Community Outreach



Photo Caption: Debbie Cafey from the Shelby County Crimes Victims Center, left, and Jo Griffith, Shelby County Office of Preparedness Reserve, right.

On May 9, the Greater Faith Tabernacle Ministries happily welcomed citizens to their annual community event at 905 East Shelby Drive. Jo Griffith, Shelby County Office of Preparedness Reserve, handed out Citizen Corps bags filled with HELP / OK signs, Ready Kids coloring books, FEMA brochures, Financial First Aid workbooks, and had a disaster kit on display. Also attending were the MidSouth Gastroenterology, Shelby County Books from Birth, Sisters Network, Southern College of Optometry, Seedco Exchange Club Family Center, Memphis Health Center, ACN Project Feeding Kids, Affordable Care Act Enrollment, MidSouth Regional Blood Center, and the MidSouth Transplant Foundation.

SCOP Hosts SKYWARN Training



Photo Captions: Left: Meteorologist Gary Woodall instructing SKYWARN volunteers at the EOC, Right: Tornado Alley

“One spotter report can make the difference!” said instructor Gary Woodall, National Weather Service (NWS) Warning Coordination Meteorologist, on May 1 when the Shelby County Office of Preparedness hosted SKYWARN training in the Emergency Operations Center. Woodall presented “Working Together to Save Lives,” to new and veteran weather spotter volunteers. Asked to observe and report what they see in support of the weather warning system, spotters “are needed now more than ever,” said Woodall. “It’s May - the heart of severe weather season. Our electronic tools can only show part of the picture...it can’t tell us what is happening on the ground. That is where spotters can assist us.” Getting timely, accurate weather alerts out to the public is a team effort utilizing radar, media partners, emergency management, and spotters. The most helpful spotter reports are for tornados, funnel clouds, rotating wall clouds, flash flooding, large hail, high winds, and storm damage. Spotter safety was stressed. “Situational awareness is key,” said Woodall. “Look not just ahead of you, but also behind, and up....know where your shelter is located at all times - have an escape route.” Spotter reports should include their name, the what, when, and where of the event. Teams are best - with a spotter posted at different angles to a storm. Woodall asked spotters to stay in radio contact with others using a net control and to watch for changing weather. For more information on SKYWARN classes or to contact the NWS, please call 901.544.0300 or go to www.weather.gov/memphis.

Amateur “Ham” Radio



- **Training:** Ham Radio Technician License class is offered by the Delta Amateur Radio Club, Thursdays, July 9 - August 13, 2015, 6:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., 6972 Appling Farms Parkway. FREE! FCC exam is \$15 and the manual is \$45. To register, email wa40ovo@gmail.com.
- **SCOP Ham Net:** The Shelby County Office of Preparedness invites licensed hams to join the “SCOPERNET” Mondays, 6:00 p.m. on 147.09 repeater, tone 107.2. Ned Savage, Reserve Communications Officer, is net control. The net is also activated during weather warnings.

Bouler is new Emergency Responder



Photo Caption: Kimberlyn Bouler, 2nd from left, sitting

Congratulations to Kimberlyn Bouler, Shelby County Office of Preparedness Senior Planner, who joined 20 of her fellow students to graduate from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office Training Academy as an Emergency Medical Responder with the Volunteer Services Bureau, Emergency Services Unit. Starting January 6, these dedicated students completed 96 hours of emergency medical training and 40 hours of field operations training. Students were given lectures and hands-on training in the areas of medical response, field operations, chainsaw skills, Kubota off-loading, radio communications, GPS and compass use, and emergency vehicle operations. Students also completed NIMS 100, 200, 700 and 800 and obtained a boat certification with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Students graduated with a National EMS Certification and an Emergency Medical Responder Certification.

Heat Awareness Day



Mid-South summers are hot! The Shelby County Office of Preparedness encourages citizens to learn the symptoms and first aid of heat-related illnesses on May 22, Heat Awareness Day. They include:

Heat Cramps: painful muscle cramps or spasms in legs or abdomen and heavy sweating. **First Aid:** massage or apply firm pressure on cramping muscles and sip cool water. Get out of the heat!

Heat Exhaustion: heavy sweating, weakness, cool, pale or clammy skin, fast, weak pulse, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, fainting. **First Aid:** Get to a cool place, lie down, apply cool cloths, sip cool water.

Heat Stroke: change in mental status, headache, nausea, dizziness, shallow breathing, body temperature over 103 F, hot, red, dry or moist skin, rapid strong pulse, fainting. **First Aid:** call 911! Get to a cool place. Apply cool cloths to the body. Do not give fluids.

Shelby County Power Outages

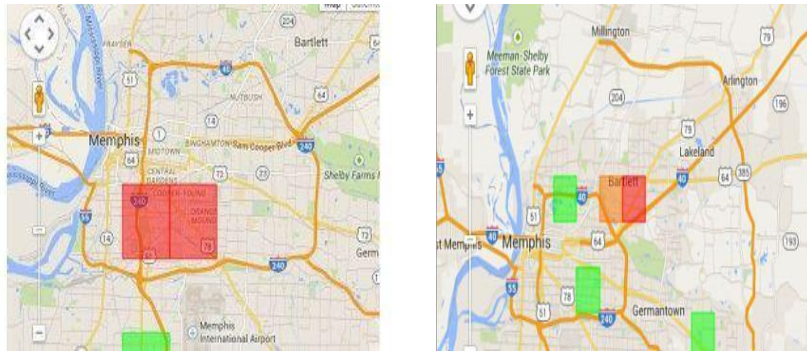


Photo Captions: Memphis Light, Gas and Water Outage Maps

Power outages can occur at any time for a variety of reasons. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness reminds citizens to be ready for an outage with a disaster kit at home, work and auto. According to Memphis Light, Gas and Water, the follow outages occurred during April 2015:

- **April 13:** an 18 wheeler truck took out a power pole and traffic light causing approximately 4,000 power outages near I240 to the north and East Holmes Road South. The issue was largely resolved by 1:30 p.m.
- **April 20:** 3,500 customers were without power for a few hours at S. Lauderdale to Semmes Street and Ball Road to Union Avenue.
- **April 21:** 4,600 homes in Bartlett, Collierville and parts of Southeast Shelby County were without power for a few hours.

To view the MLGW outage map, please visit: www.mlwg.com/residential/outagemap.

Shelby County Inclement Weather



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness reminds citizens to stay ahead of storm by having a NOAA all-hazards weather radio with battery back-up and a tone alert or an ALERT FM receiver with them at all times to receive weather updates.

The National Weather Service in Memphis issued the following advisories, watches, and warnings:

- April 13: flash flood advisory upgraded to a flash flood warning. On April 14, Millington Central High school closed due to excessive rain damage.
- April 19: tornado watch.

For more information about weather forecasts, please visit www.weather.gov.

Mississippi River at Memphis

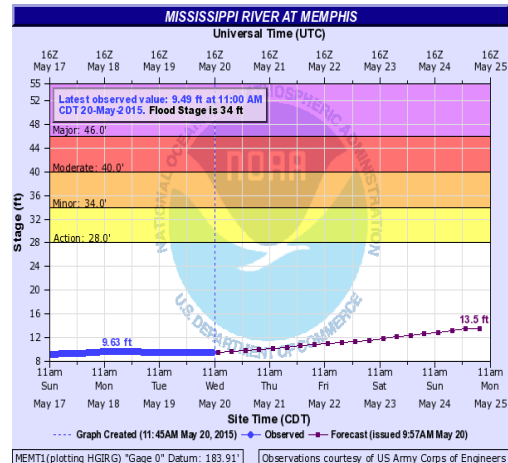


Photo Captions: Left: Barge on the Mississippi River at Memphis May 20, 2015.
Right: NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service river forecast graph.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), the Mississippi River at Memphis latest observed value is 9.63 feet on May 20 and will rise to 13.5 feet on May 25, 2015. For more information about river levels and predictions, please visit www.weather.gov.

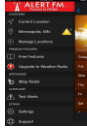
Preparedness Training Opportunities

Visit: www.staysafeshelby.us for location and to register for these FREE training opportunities:

- Personal Protective Measures for Biological Events, June 18 – 19, 2015, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Mass Prophylaxis Preparedness Planning, July 28 – 29, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Sports and Special Event Incident, August 11 – 12, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Sports and Special Event Incident, August 26 – 27, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Critical Asset Resource Management, September 15 – 16, 2015, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Preparedness Resources

ALERTFM: www.alertfm.com



ReadyTN: www.tnema.gov



FEMA: www.fema.gov



Shelby County Office of Preparedness: www.staysafeshelby.us, 901.515.2525

Shelby County CERT: email Eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Storm Shelter Registry, Kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby Cares, email Terry.Donald@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Citizen Corp: citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County, TN: www.shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps: www.shelbycountymrc.org

ALERT FM: www.alertfm.com

Ready Shelby: www.readyshelby.us

AccuWeather: www.accuweather.com

American Heart Association: www.heart.org

American Radio Relay League: www.arrl.org

Center for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov

Center for Earthquake Research and Information: CERI www.ceri.memphis.edu

Department of Homeland Security: www.dhs.gov

Disability Preparedness: www.disability.gov/emergency-preparedness

Disaster Assistance: www.disasterassistance.gov, 1.800.621.FEMA / TTY 1.800.462.7585

Disaster Recovery Centers: text DRC plus zip code to 43362

Emergency Management Institute: www.training.fema.gov/EMI, 301.447.1000

Emergency 2.0: www.emergency202wiki.org

Federal Drug Administration: www.fda.gov

Federal Emergency Management Administration: www.fema.gov, 1.800.621.3362

- Citizen Corps: www.citizencorps.org
- Ready America: www.ready.gov

- Ready Business: www.ready.gov/business
- Ready Kids: www.ready.gov/kids
- FEMA Text messages: text PREPARE to 43362 (4FEMA)
- FEMA Independent Study Program , 301.447.1200

Google Maps: www.googlemaps.com

Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County: www.memphishumane.org

International Association of Emergency Planners: www.iaem.com

MapQuest: www.mapquest.com

Memphis Light, Gas and Water: www.mlgw.com, 901.544.6549, Outages: 901.544.6500

National Flood Insurance Program: www.floodsmart.gov

National Fire Protection Association: www.NFPA.org

National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov

National Safety Council: www.nsc.org

National Weather Service: www.weather.gov, National Weather Service in Memphis, 901.544.0399

Occupational Safety and Hazards Administration: www.osha.gov

Ready Tennessee: www.tn.gov/homelandsecurity/getready.shtml

Road Conditions: Tennessee:1.877.244.0065, Mississippi:1.888.728.4218, Arkansas:1.800.245.1672

Salvation Army: www.salvationarmyusa.org

Severe Weather: www.ready.gov/severe-weather

Shelters, text SHELTER and your zip code to 43362

Tennessee: www.tennessee.gov

Tennessee Department of Transportation: www.tdot.state.tn.us

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency: www.tnema.gov

United States Fire Administration: www.usfa.fema.gov

United States Geological Society: www.usgs.gov

Weather Channel: www.weather.com

Wunderground: www.wunderground.com

EMERGENCY: call 911